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This volume is the most important piece of general bacteriological literature that has been published in this country. It would be well indeed to have a copy of it in every working laboratory.

L. H. PANNUEL

A Bibliographical Index of North American Fungi.¹— For about thirty years Professor Farlow has been accumulating a card index referring to the fungi of North America. Nearly twenty years since, two authors' lists of works on this subject were published, and have been kept at the elbow of every student of our fungi since their appearance. The publication has now been commenced of the references to genera and species, as Publication No. 8 of the Carnegie Institution.

The preparation of an index may appear to the uninitiated a simple matter. A perusal of the author's seven-page preface is calculated to undeceive one who holds such an opinion, and the preface also contains some of the most sensible of recent commentary on nomenclature in natural history. A full list of abbreviations, and their consistent use, have rendered possible a wonderfully condensed presentation of the references to publications, which are kept within the limits of a single text line each. Synonyms are intelligibly collocated with accepted names, and free use is made of cross references.

In the preparation of the index, the author has had the assistance of Mr. Seymour's keen eyes for many years, and it may be predicted with safety that no important omissions will be found. Dr. Farlow's own familiarity with the literature of his subject is second to that of no one, and the knowledge of fungi that he has brought to the acceptance of admitted names, the placing of those treated as synonyms, and a very free critical annotation, is unequalled.

The Carnegie Institution is to be congratulated on having undertaken the publication of so generally useful a work as the *Index of North American Fungi*, the value of which in facilitating thoroughness of study is certain to make itself felt in all future publications on this important subject.

W. T.

Osterhout's Experiments with Plants.²— This book brings before

¹Farlow, W. G. *Bibliographical Index of North American Fungi*. Vol. 1, part 1, "Abrothallus" to "Badhamia." The Carnegie Institution, Washington, Sept. 1, 1905. 8vo, xxxv + 312 pp.

²Osterhout, W. J. V. *Experiments with Plants*. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1905. 8vo, x + 492 pp., 252 figs.